

Land under Irrigation in Maharashtra

4009. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land brought under irrigation in Maharashtra during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to Maharashtra during the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) An additional irrigation potential of 687.75 thousand hectares is anticipated to have been created in the State of Maharashtra during the Seventh Plan period.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 1989-91 crores was approved by the Planning Commission during Seventh plan under irrigation sector to Maharashtra State against which the likely expenditure was Rs. 2284.77 crores. In addition to that an institutional investment of Rs. 532.66 crores was also during the same period.

Expansion of Telephone Exchange in States

4010. SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose during 1992-93 in each of the States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the projected demand, the draft 8th plan proposals envisage addition of telephone exchange lines in the telecom circles as given below:

Uttar Pradesh	5.30 lakh lines
Bihar	1.25 " "
Rajasthan	4.15 " "
Gujarat	7.95 " "
Andhra Pradesh	6.45 " "
Maharashtra	9.05 " "

(c) Budget allocation for 1992-93 for the Department of Telecommunications has been submitted to the Parliament for their approval. At this stage state-wise allocation cannot be furnished.

Post and Telephone facilities in Gram Panchayats in Tribal areas

4011. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of relaxations for providing the telephone facilities in tribal and backward areas of the country;

(b) whether post offices have been provided in all the Gram Panchayats in the tribal areas; and

(c) if not, by when these are likely to be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all the panchayat villages including tribal and backward areas of the country progressively by 31st March, 1995, subject to availability of resources.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The post offices in rural areas including tribal areas are opened subject to satisfaction of income, population and distance norms prescribed for the purpose. Relaxed income and population norms are, however, applicable in the case of tribal areas which are minimum anticipated 15% income of the cost and 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages are against an income of 33 1/3% of cost and 3000 population in a group of villages prescribed for normal rural areas respectively. Expansion of postal network is a continuing process and efforts are made to cover as many such areas as possible subject to satisfaction of prescribed norms and availability of funds.

Reconstitution of Programme Advisory Committee

4012. PROF. MALINI BATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether reconstitution of Programme Advisory Committee for All India Radio is being considered;

(b) whether the State Governments are supposed to nominate some of the members on the Committee;

(c) the scope, objective, terms of reference and powers of the Committee; only

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRIJA VYAS):

(a) Programme Advisory Committee have been re-constituted at most of the All India Radio stations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Programme Advisory Committees are constituted for a period of 2 years. The basic purpose of these Committees is to make suggestions for the improvement of programmes, and advice on such other matters concerning the planning and presentation of programmes of the station as are referred to the committee.

Technical facilities at kozhikode Airport

4013. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the establishment of the required technical facilities for operation of the Air bus aircraft at Kozhikode Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air bus A-320 aircraft are already operating to/from the airport at Kozhikode/Calicut. A feasibility study has been carried out by the National Airports Authority of extension of the runway. The study revealed